

## Andrew Jackson to David Holmes, January 18, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### TO GOVERNOR HOLMES.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Facsimile in Mrs. Dunbar Rowland's *Andrew Jackson's Campaign against the British*, pp. 358, 359. Original in Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Draft in Jackson MSS.

“ Camp 4 miles below Orleans ”, January 18, 1815.

*Sir*, The repulse which the enemy met with on the 8th has, I believe, proved fatal to their hopes. Their loss on that day was prodigious, exceeding, according to their own accounts as well as to ours, 2600. Amongst their killed were Genl. Packingham, the commander in cheif, and Majr Genl Gibbs who died the day after the action. Major general Kean was wounded but still lives. Their army is at present conducted by Major general Lambert, who, if I mistake not, finds himself in a very great perplexity. To advance he cannot: to retreat is shameful. Reduced to this unhappy dilemma, I believe he is disposed to encounter disgrace rather than ruin, and will, as soon as his arrangements for this purpose are effected, return to his shipping. This, at any rate, is the design to which many symptoms seem to point. Probably, when it is attempted to be put in execution I shall accompany him a short distance.

If ever there was an occassion on which Providence interfered, immediately, in the affairs of men it seems to have been on this. What but such an interposition could have saved this Country? Let us mingle our joys and our thanksgivings together.

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At a moment when my feelings are thus alive I should do violence to them if I did not hasten to offer you my thanks as well for the good disposition you have manifested, as for the important services you have rendered.

With the highest respect I have the honor to be, Sir, Yr very Obt Servt.

P. S. I must again entreat that when the vessel with the arms shall arrive at Natchez you will use your best means to have them hastened to this point with the utmost despatch—having the man who had been entrusted with the transportation of them arrested, and sent to me in confinement. A. J.